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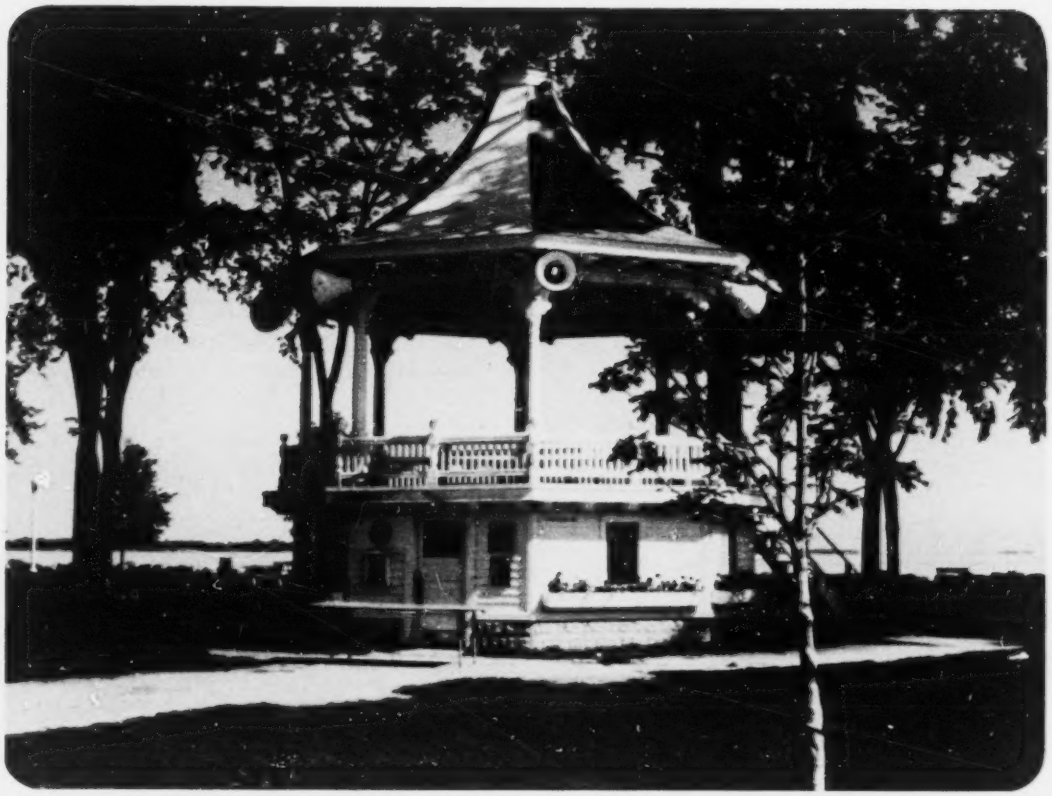
WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

APRIL 1985



DILHR
DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

	INDICATOR	SOURCE
L1	Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wis.Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2	Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3	Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5	Total Job Openings Received	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6	New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7	Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8	Building Plans Examined	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C1	Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Milw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2	Total Unemployment Rate	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3	Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4	New Car Registrations	Wis. Department of Transportation
C5	Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6	Total Securities Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7	Manufacturing Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C8	Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9	Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10	Contract Construction Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X1	Birth Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X2	Death Registgrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X3	Natural Net Gain in Population	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X4	Marriage Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X5	Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
X6	Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
X7	Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
X8	Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X9	Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees	Wis. Dept. of Industgry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program. The adjusted data are plotted on arithmetic scales.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading or coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically. The indicators are grouped by cyclical timing.

COVER PHOTO: Courtesy of Wisconsin Division of Tourism.

THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY

SUMMARY FOR MARCH

LEADING INDICATORS SIGNALING CONTINUED ECONOMIC PROGRESS OUTNUMBER THOSE POINTING DOWN IN MARCH. UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT LABOR FORCE GROWTH WAS ANEMIC.

LEADING INDICATORS

Production workers in Wisconsin's manufacturing industries are spending more time on the job. The average workweek in manufacturing rose, in March, to 40.8 hours.

The average workweek usually decreases in March, so the trend is up. However, February's workweek length was sub-par. And, March's average workweek is below the year-ago level.

A positive aspect of the longer workweek is that it was coupled with a higher level of manufacturing employment in March, an indication of increased production levels.

The average number of overtime hours worked per week remained the same in March as in the month earlier. Overtime normally decreases in the third month, so this month's level is a positive indicator.

Initial claims for unemployment compensation decreased in March. The average weekly claims number edged down at a slightly more than normal pace. However, the initial claims level in the beginning of this year is higher than the first three months of 1984. The usual seasonal pattern in the initial claims average is a decrease in spring and summer, followed by increases in fall.

The total number of job openings received by Job Service offices throughout the state increased in March. The increase, however, was at a less than seasonally normal pace.

The number of new business incorporations grew in March, but the growth was not large. The February-to-March period usually has a large increase in the number of new business incorporations, so this month's growth is off the pace.

Both the gain in business telephone access lines and the number of building plans examined increased in March at above their normal seasonal pace.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE

Employment is up by nearly 11-thousand this month, but that is less than the usual February-to-March rise. Thus, the trend is down.

Unemployment decreased by 8300, and that is much more than the usual decrease for March. Most of the employment gain came from a reduction in the number of unemployed.

The lower unemployment level caused a decrease in the unemployment rate. While the rate typically does decrease in March, it decreased, this month, from an atypical cause.

More usual is a rate decrease resulting from larger labor force growth along with a larger employment gain, but with less unemployment shrinkage. This month's labor force growth was meager, allowing the unemployment-to-employment movement.

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	% CHANGE Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	AVG. 1984
LEADING INDICATORS								
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	75.9	Mar	72.6	72.3	4.5	5.0	70.1
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	40.8	Mar	40.6	41.2	0.5	-1.0	41.1
Seasonally Adjusted		40.9		40.6	41.3	0.7	-1.0	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	3.0	Mar	3.0	3.2	0.0	-6.2	3.2
Seasonally Adjusted		3.2		3.1	3.4	3.2	-5.9	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	11,516	Mar	12,569	9,515	-8.4	21.0	10,817
Seasonally Adjusted		11,799		11,993	9,749	-1.6	21.0	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS REC.								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	7,480	Mar	6,247	7,841	19.7	-4.6	8,694
Seasonally Adjusted		8,471		9,133	8,885	-7.2	-4.7	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	528	Mar	496	673	6.5	-21.5	562
Seasonally Adjusted		488		578	622	-15.6	-21.5	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	2,085	Mar	-9	-77	23,270	2807.8	328
Seasonally Adjusted		1,008		886	15	13.8	6620.0	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	399	Mar	297	416	34.3	-4.1	487
Seasonally Adjusted		507		445	529	13.9	-4.2	
ROUGHLY COINCIDING INDICATORS								
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	54	Mar	56	50	-3.6	8.0	52
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL								
Unadjusted	PERCENT	7.7	Mar	8.1	8.7	-	-	7.4
Seasonally Adjusted		7.6		7.8	8.1	-	-	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. THERMS	419.6	Feb	503.0	352.5	-16.6	19.0	252.5
Seasonally Adjusted		272.6		266.0	229.1	2.5	19.0	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	14,766	Mar	13,205	15,021	11.8	-1.7	16,066
Seasonally Adjusted		13,655		17,407	13,886	-21.6	-1.7	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. KWH	1789.3	Feb	1905.6	1749.5	-6.1	2.3	1865.8
Seasonally Adjusted		1875.6		1892.4	1834.6	-0.9	2.2	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	121.8	Mar	103.3	74.4	17.9	63.7	89.4
Seasonally Adjusted		153.4		73.6	93.7	108.4	63.7	

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	% CHANGE Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	AVG. 1984
C7 MANUFACTURING EMPL.								
Unadjusted	THOUS.	503.9	Mar	502.3	508.2	0.3	-0.8	518.3
Seasonally Adjusted		513.7		513.1	517.9	0.1	-0.8	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	DOLLARS	416.16	Mar	413.31	416.94	0.7	-0.2	412.46
Seasonally Adjusted		415.33		409.62	415.99	1.4	-0.2	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	458.9	Dec	494.0	430.8	-7.1	6.5	435.9
Seasonally Adjusted		444.5		443.4	416.0	0.2	6.9	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.								
Unadjusted	THOUS.	49.2	Mar	48.5	49.6	1.4	-0.8	58.3
Seasonally Adjusted		61.0		61.9	61.5	-1.5	-0.8	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS								
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	5,769	Mar	5,299	5,862	8.9	-1.6	6,101
Seasonally Adjusted		5,792		5,429	5,886	6.7	-1.6	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,537	Mar	3,645	3,304	-3.0	7.1	3,438
Seasonally Adjusted		3,474		3,546	3,247	-2.0	7.0	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	2,233	Mar	1,654	2,558	34.9	-12.7	2,663
Seasonally Adjusted		2,397		1,647	2,748	45.5	-12.8	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	1,640	Mar	1,571	1,693	4.4	-3.1	3,420
Seasonally Adjusted		2,852		2,904	2,946	-1.8	-3.2	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (MILW.)				(Jan)				
Unadjusted	INDEX	327.8	Mar	324.6	316.8	1.0	3.5	320.6
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS								
Unadjusted	INDEX	141	Mar	142	145	-0.7	-2.8	144
Seasonally Adjusted		140		140	144	0.0	-2.8	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,599	Mar	1,964	1,038	83.2	246.7	750
Seasonally Adjusted		2,177		2,170	838	0.3	159.8	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	45	Mar	45	329	0.0	-86.3	520
Seasonally Adjusted		65		88	476	-26.1	-86.3	
X9 UNEMPL. COMPENSATION EXHAUSTEES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	25,762	Mar	25,020	29,595	3.0	-13.0	28,186
Seasonally Adjusted		25,482		27,127	29,276	-6.1	-13.0	

Section

B LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES MARCH	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Unadjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2358.3	2355.8	2359.6	0.1	-0.1
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2175.7	2164.9	2155.5	0.5	0.9
Unemployment	182.6	190.9	204.1	-4.3	-10.5
Unemployment Rate	7.7	8.1	8.7	-	-
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2414.9	2426.1	2443.6	-0.5	-1.2
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2230.5	2237.8	2246.4	-0.3	-0.7
Unemployment	184.4	188.3	197.2	-2.1	-6.5
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.8	8.1	-	-

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES MARCH	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	1940.8	1933.8	1887.8	0.4	2.8
Unadjusted					
Manufacturing	503.9	502.3	507.9	0.3	-0.8
Mining	1.1	1.0	1.3	10.0	-15.4
Contract Construction	49.2	48.5	49.6	1.4	-0.8
Transportation and Public Utilities	89.0	88.4	88.9	0.7	0.1
Elec., Gas and Sanitary Services	17.0	17.0	16.7	0.0	1.8
Wholesale Trade	99.6	99.4	96.7	0.2	3.0
Retail Trade	353.8	351.5	333.5	0.7	6.1
General Merchandise	48.0	48.4	45.0	-0.8	6.7
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	104.7	104.2	99.9	0.5	4.8
Banking	28.4	28.3	27.1	0.4	4.8
Insurance	33.3	33.1	32.4	0.6	2.8
Service and Miscellaneous	411.0	410.0	392.5	0.2	4.7
Hospitals	67.6	67.6	70.7	0.0	-4.4
Private Education	26.0	26.0	24.3	0.0	7.0
Government	328.5	328.5	317.4	0.0	3.5
State Government	85.2	84.6	80.9	0.7	5.3
Local Government	216.6	217.3	210.1	-0.3	3.1

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES MARCH	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	115,514	115,084	112,906	0.4	2.3
Employment	107,119	106,685	104,123	0.4	2.9
Unemployment	8,396	8,399	8,783	-0.0	-4.4
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.3	7.8	-	-

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Unadjusted)* MARCH	(In Thousands)		
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago
All Manufacturing (Including Canning)	503.9	502.3	507.9
All Manufacturing (Excluding Canning)	497.3	495.9	501.5
Durable Goods	313.6	312.4	319.0
Lumber and Wood Prod., (Except Furniture)	20.4	20.2	20.8
Sawmills and Planning Mills	3.2	3.2	3.1
Millwork, Veneer, Plywood & Prefab. Wood Prod.	8.9	8.7	9.3
Furniture and Fixtures	11.3	11.3	9.8
Household Furniture	5.2	5.1	4.5
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	6.3	6.1	7.2
Concrete, Gypsum and Plaster Products	2.0	1.9	2.7
Primary Metal Industries	19.9	19.9	19.4
Iron and Steel Foundries	11.2	11.3	10.8
Fabricated Metal Products	49.5	49.4	50.9
Heating Equipment (Except Electrical) & Plumbing Fixtures	4.9	4.9	5.5
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	11.5	11.3	11.3
Metal Stampings	12.3	12.5	12.9
Machinery (Except Electrical)	103.1	101.7	101.7
Engines and Turbines	20.0	20.4	22.3
Farm Machinery and Equipment	12.8	11.5	13.8
Const., Min. & Material Handling Mach. & Equip.	11.2	11.0	11.5
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	12.1	12.0	10.9
Special Industry Machinery (Except Metalworking)	11.1	11.1	10.5
General Industrial Machinery and Equipment	15.5	15.5	14.2
Service Industry Machines	7.8	7.9	7.6
Electrical Machinery, Equipment and Supplies	50.8	51.3	52.4
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	18.2	18.4	18.3
Household Appliances	6.6	6.7	7.0
Transportation Equipment	31.2	31.5	36.5
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	24.3	24.4	29.3
Instruments and Related Products	10.6	10.9	10.5
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.3	10.1	9.8
Nondurable Goods	190.3	190.0	188.9
Food and Kindred Products	57.7	57.3	57.6
Meat Products	13.8	13.7	13.6
Dairy Products	17.8	17.7	17.0
Canning and Preserving	6.6	6.5	6.4
Bakery Products	3.8	3.7	4.3
Beverage Industries	8.3	8.2	9.0
Textile Mill Products	4.7	4.6	4.3
Knitting Mills	3.9	3.8	3.6
Apparel and Other Finished Products	6.2	6.5	6.4
Paper and Allied Products	46.3	46.1	46.7
Pulp and Paper Mills	28.9	28.7	29.1
Converted Paper and Paperboard Products	9.4	9.4	9.4
Paperboard Containers and Boxes	6.9	6.9	7.0
Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries	37.0	37.0	35.7
Newspapers	11.7	11.7	11.1
Commercial Printing	15.3	15.3	15.0
Chemicals and Allied Products	9.8	9.8	9.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	20.9	21.0	20.0
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	16.7	16.7	15.7
Leather and Leather Products	7.4	7.3	8.2
Leather Tanning and Finishing	1.9	1.9	2.2
Footwear (Except Rubber)	3.8	3.8	4.2
Other Nondurable Goods	-	-	-

Section

C WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* MARCH	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$416	$413	$417	40.8	40.6	41.2
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	417	415	419	40.8	40.6	41.3
Durable Goods	427	424	427	40.9	40.6	41.4
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	312	306	306	41.2	40.2	41.1
Furniture and Fixtures	300	295	314	41.5	40.9	42.1
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	389	386	382	41.6	41.4	41.5
Primary Metal Industries	412	401	404	41.5	40.7	42.0
Iron and Steel Foundries	410	404	417	40.7	40.3	42.2
Fabricated Metal Products	402	410	410	39.7	40.2	40.6
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	418	414	413	41.7	41.4	42.1
Metal Stampings	385	395	382	37.9	38.8	38.9
Machinery (Except Electrical)	480	472	494	41.5	41.0	42.3
Engines and Turbines	516	502	516	41.2	40.3	43.0
Farm Machinery and Equip.	511	497	533	40.6	40.2	42.1
Const. and Related Mach.	474	471	494	40.6	40.3	41.3
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	515	500	476	42.9	41.8	41.4
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal).	492	477	507	43.5	43.1	46.5
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	494	506	487	41.1	41.8	41.7
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	399	396	389	40.2	40.1	40.9
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	418	415	424	40.5	40.5	41.5
Transportation Equipment	567	563	534	41.3	41.1	41.4
Instruments and Related Prod.	341	341	311	38.8	38.8	38.2
Nondurable Goods	396	396	400	40.5	40.6	40.9
Food and Kindred Products	372	371	379	39.5	39.6	39.2
Meat Products	326	327	377	38.3	38.6	39.7
Dairy Products	385	378	361	41.0	40.5	39.2
Textile Mill Products	291	284	281	40.8	39.9	40.5
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	235	236	226	37.9	38.7	37.8
Paper and Allied Products	512	516	489	44.8	45.1	44.7
Pulp and Paper Mills	555	564	528	46.1	46.7	46.0
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	408	401	459	38.0	37.5	40.3
Chemicals and Allied Products	459	471	448	41.8	42.7	42.3
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	318	317	323	39.2	39.3	40.2
Leather and Leather Products.	253	252	257	38.5	38.4	38.4

Section

C WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* MARCH	Average Hourly Earnings Including O.T.			Average Hourly Earnings Excluding O.T.		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	10.20	10.18	10.12	9.85	9.82	9.73
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	10.23	10.21	10.15	9.88	9.85	9.76
Durable Goods	10.45	10.44	10.32	10.14	10.11	9.95
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	7.58	7.62	7.44	7.50	7.56	7.40
Furniture and Fixtures	7.23	7.22	7.45	7.08	7.08	7.28
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	9.36	9.32	9.20	9.18	9.17	8.90
Primary Metal Industries	9.92	9.85	9.61	9.59	9.52	9.22
Iron and Steel Foundries	10.08	10.02	9.89	9.80	9.75	9.50
Fabricated Metal Products	10.13	10.20	10.09	9.74	9.78	9.60
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	10.03	10.01	9.82	9.61	9.56	9.44
Metal Stampings	10.17	10.19	9.82	9.98	9.99	9.64
Machinery (Except Electrical)	11.57	11.50	11.67	11.26	11.18	11.23
Engines and Turbines	12.52	12.45	12.83	12.21	12.18	12.08
Farm Machinery and Equip.	12.59	12.37	12.67	12.31	12.04	12.33
Const. and Related Mach.	11.68	11.68	11.97	11.49	11.50	11.80
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	12.00	11.97	11.49	11.47	11.45	11.15
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal).	11.30	11.06	10.91	10.73	10.53	10.49
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	12.03	12.10	11.69	11.76	11.75	11.28
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	9.92	9.88	9.52	9.70	9.66	9.30
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.31	10.25	10.22	10.16	10.11	9.95
Transportation Equipment	13.72	13.71	12.90	13.17	13.11	12.43
Instruments and Related Prod.	8.79	8.80	8.15	8.68	8.66	8.14
Nondurable Goods	9.77	9.75	9.77	9.34	9.32	9.32
Food and Kindred Products	9.42	9.36	9.67	9.00	8.94	9.30
Meat Products	8.50	8.46	9.75	8.20	8.11	9.53
Dairy Products	9.39	9.34	9.22	8.94	8.91	8.93
Textile Mill Products	7.12	7.13	6.94	6.88	6.91	6.75
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	6.20	6.10	5.99	6.09	5.99	5.88
Paper and Allied Products	11.42	11.45	10.93	10.94	10.93	10.40
Pulp and Paper Mills	12.04	12.08	11.48	11.55	11.54	10.90
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	10.73	10.70	11.38	10.24	10.28	-
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.98	11.04	10.59	10.63	10.63	10.22
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	8.12	8.06	8.03	7.85	7.80	7.74
Leather and Leather Products.	6.57	6.57	6.68	6.44	6.48	6.56

Section

C SUMMARY OF RECENT WISCONSIN DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers *(Unadjusted)* MARCH	Average Weekly						Average Hourly Earnings				
	Earnings			Hours			Including O.T.			Excluding O.T.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	$380	$374	$370	40.3	39.7	40.7	9.44	9.42	9.09	-	-
Wisconsin	416	413	417	40.8	40.6	41.2	10.20	10.18	10.12	9.85	9.82
Selected Areas											
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	417	416	410	41.5	41.7	42.1	10.06	9.97	9.74	9.67	9.55
Beloit (City)	370	357	410	39.0	38.6	43.2	9.49	9.25	9.49	-	-
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	423	429	407	41.7	42.2	41.5	10.15	10.17	9.80	9.68	9.59
Fond du Lac (County)	380	391	366	41.9	42.8	40.4	9.08	9.14	9.07	8.81	8.88
Green Bay (Brown County)	447	444	433	41.0	40.7	41.0	10.91	10.90	10.54	10.34	10.31
Janesville (City)	553	546	506	40.6	40.2	39.2	13.61	13.58	12.92	13.09	12.97
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	479	469	453	40.0	39.4	40.3	11.97	11.90	11.24	11.40	11.26
Kenosha (County)	474	466	476	40.1	39.1	40.2	11.83	11.92	11.84	11.56	11.62
La Crosse (County)	349	341	341	38.7	39.3	39.0	9.03	8.91	8.74	8.57	8.56
Madison (Dane County)	385	378	379	40.7	39.9	40.4	9.46	9.47	9.39	9.06	9.09
Manitowoc (County)	356	364	338	37.6	38.7	38.4	9.48	9.40	8.82	9.29	9.23
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	465	466	472	40.8	40.8	41.9	11.40	11.41	11.27	10.95	10.96
Racine (County)	416	402	429	39.3	39.0	41.1	10.58	10.30	10.43	10.38	10.02
Sheboygan (County)	384	393	370	39.1	39.8	39.5	9.81	9.88	9.37	9.48	9.51
Wausau (Marathon County)	377	374	372	39.8	40.0	40.7	9.48	9.36	9.15	9.25	9.14

EMPLOYMENT, MFG. *(Unadjusted)* MARCH	(In Thousands)			Percent Change	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
United States	19,568.0	19,540.0	19,323.0	0.1	1.3
Wisconsin	503.9	502.3	507.9	0.3	-0.8
Selected Areas					
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	46.0	45.7	45.5	0.7	1.1
Beloit (City)	5.7	5.6	6.0	1.8	-5.0
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	8.8	8.9	8.8	-1.1	0.0
Fond du Lac (County)	10.6	10.4	10.3	1.9	2.9
Green Bay (Brown County)	22.6	22.3	22.0	1.3	2.7
Janesville (City)	10.8	10.8	10.7	0.0	0.9
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	18.5	18.5	18.7	0.0	-1.1
Kenosha (County)	10.6	10.7	15.9	-0.9	-33.3
La Crosse (County)	10.5	10.8	10.3	-2.8	1.9
Madison (Dane County)	20.6	20.6	19.3	0.0	6.7
Manitowoc (County)	10.8	10.7	11.6	0.9	-6.9
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	170.9	172.0	174.6	-0.6	-2.1
Racine (County)	25.6	24.3	25.8	5.3	-0.8
Sheboygan (County)	18.7	18.8	18.4	-0.5	1.6
Wausau (Marathon County)	10.9	10.7	10.8	1.9	0.9

EMPLOYMENT PROGRESS: WISCONSIN VS. THE NATION

by Joseph Tumpach, Jr.

Is Wisconsin's economy drying into an arid economic desert? Is business and the economy here whithering while other parts of the nation flourish?

The negative population and economic trends of the past few years have received much attention from the news media, government officials, the academic fraternity, and outspoken observers.

The working-age population, many suggest, is fleeing Wisconsin to the economic Edens of California, Texas...the Sunbelt states. And, though basic manufacturing industries are decaying throughout the country, "high-tech" industries will usher us into a post-industrial, information and service age...and, it is beginning right there in the sunbelt!

How true is this scenario? Can we verify the trends? Just how does Wisconsin's employment situation compare to the nation as a whole?

Population estimates for the state and for the nation are produced with the monthly Current Population Survey. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the survey of households throughout the nation to produce labor force statistics for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. While the data are derived from a survey, implying a margin of error, the survey includes a official population estimate for those 16 years of age and older - labor force age.

For the years 1980 through 1984, the working age population is growing faster in the U.S. as a whole than in Wisconsin. However, the state's 16 years old and older population still increased.

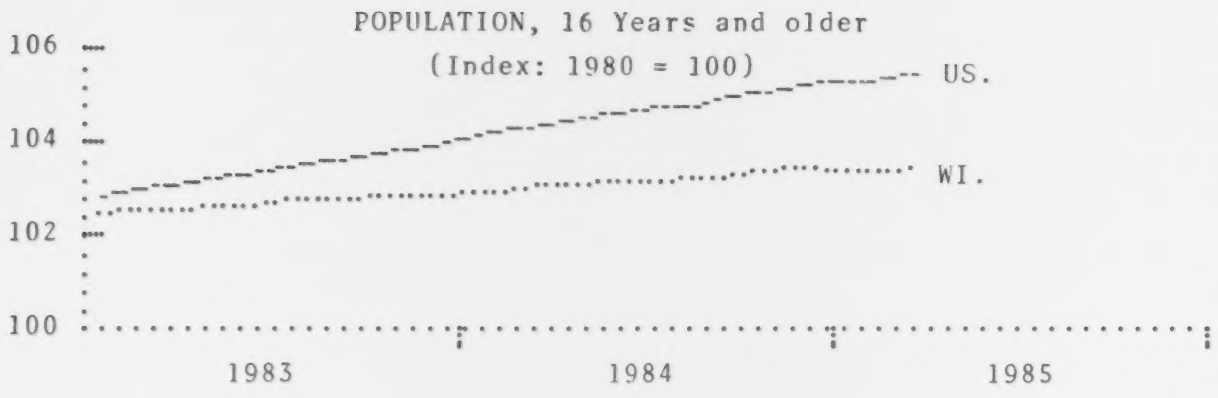
Labor force growth during the last couple of years is markedly different in Wisconsin than in the nation. The nation's labor force has grown in a steadier pattern. Wisconsin's labor force has grown in a pattern of sharp increases and plateaus, with a decreasing trend beginning in the last part of 1984.

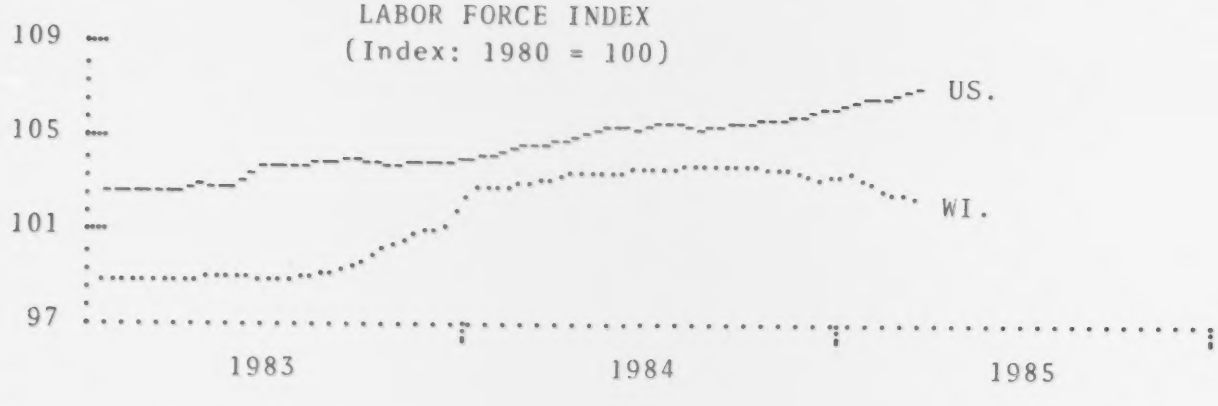
The portion of labor force-age population that is employed, the employment rate, is slightly greater in Wisconsin than in the nation as a whole. That includes only nonfarm wage and salary workers...which is the vast majority of jobs. The employment rate edge has been consistently maintained by the state for the past several years. However, the pace of actual employment growth is greater in the nation as a whole, reflecting a population that is growing more rapidly throughout the country. Thus, a higher Wisconsin employment rate together with a lower state labor force growth rate is possible.

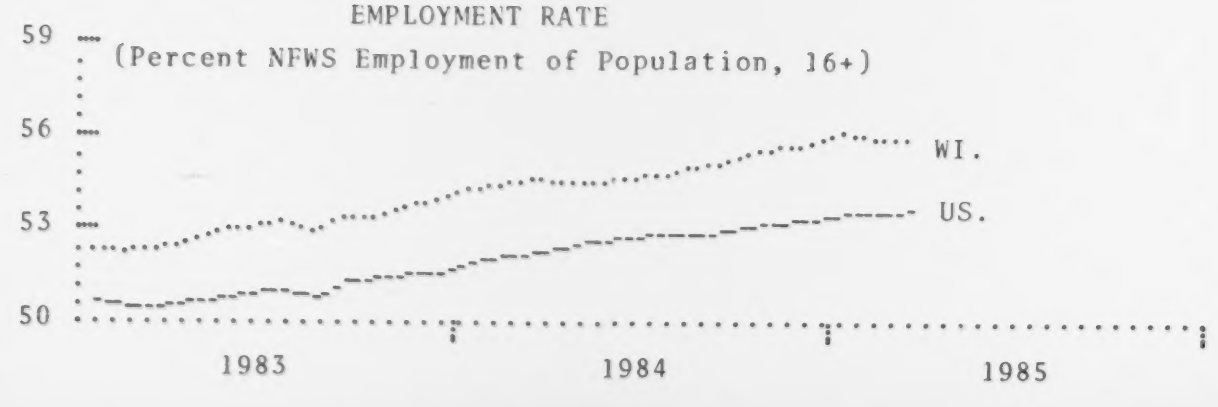
Manufacturing employment in Wisconsin has a growth pattern similar to the country's. The employment level of neither the state nor the country has reached pre-recession levels, though the nation has regained a higher portion. The growth of manufacturing employment slowed markedly in 1984 for both.

The broadest and most popular measure of the employment situation, the unemployment rate, has decreased for both the state and the nation. But, the rate decreases need some qualifying remarks. The state's rate, prior to the latest recession, had been consistently below the federal rate. Wisconsin, however, was more severely affected in the recession. Since the recession, the state's unemployment rate has consistently remained above the nations.

WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS







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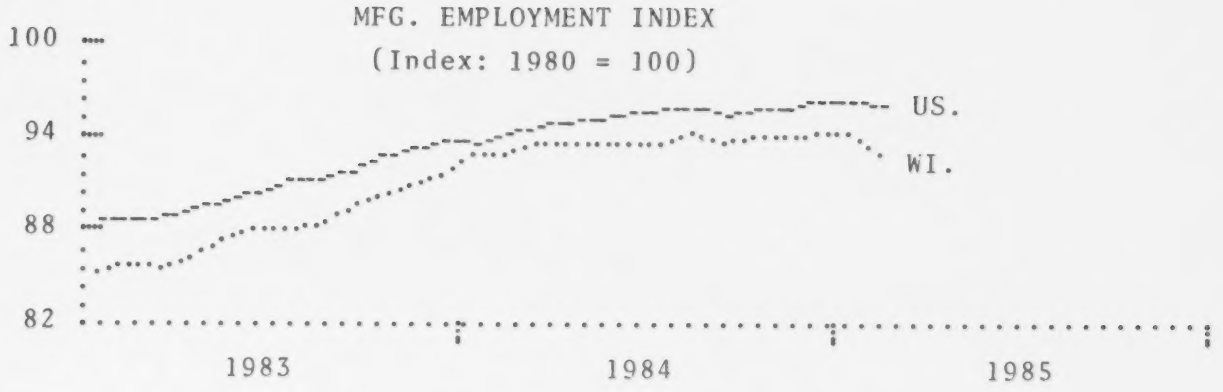

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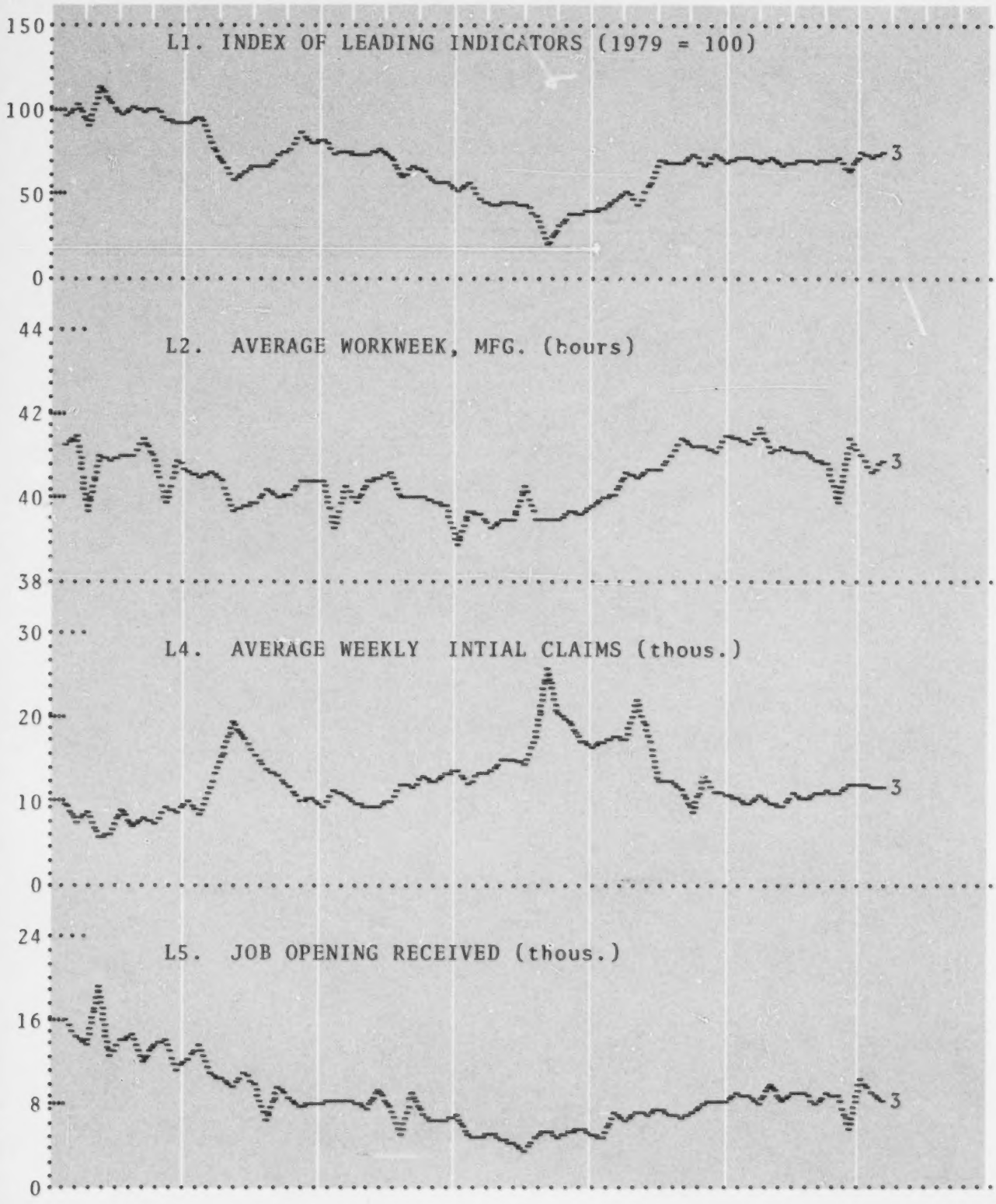

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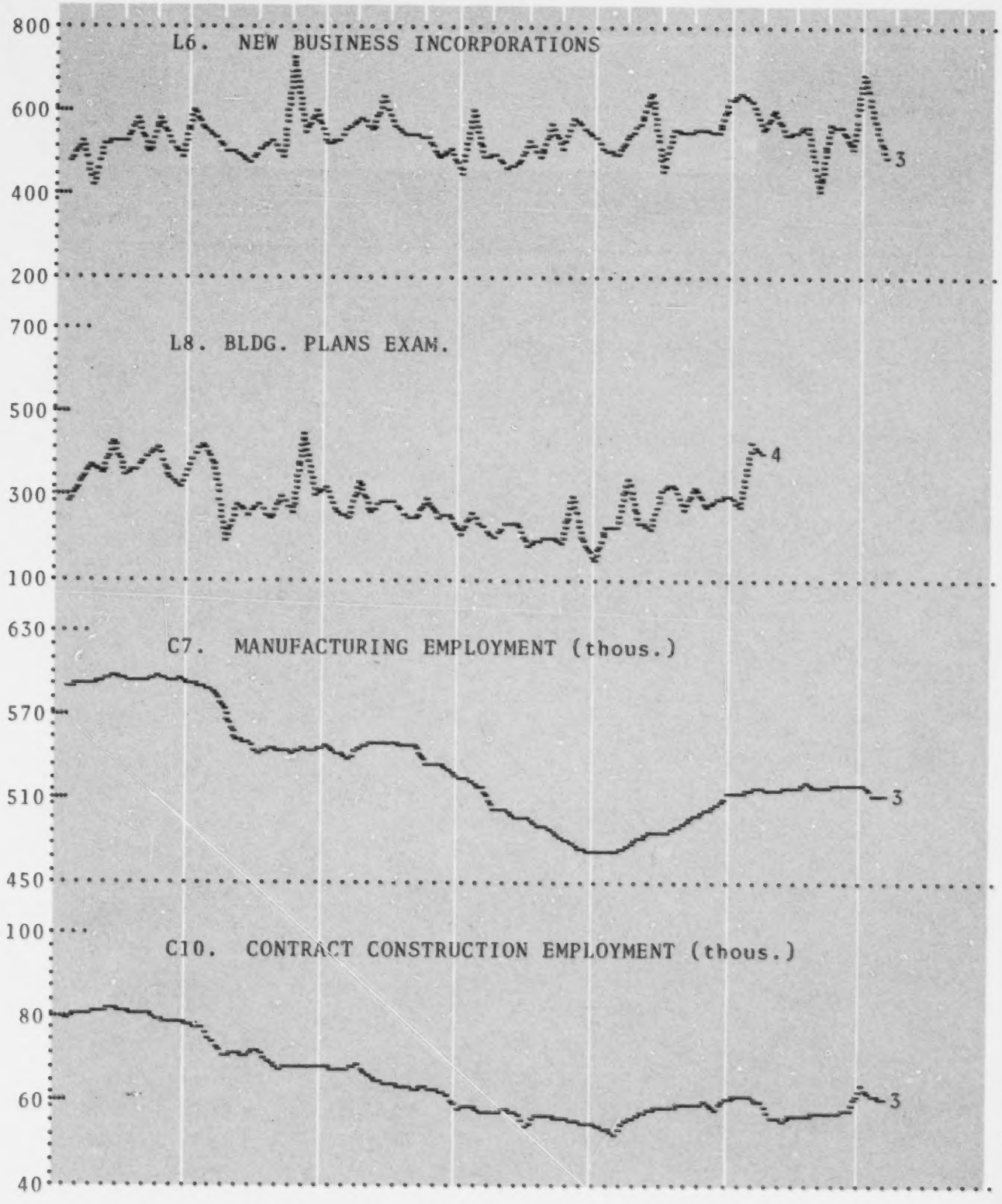

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